

## House Republican Press Release

April 21, 2005  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Stripp Urges Support For Pension Protection Measure**



Calling a proposal that would exempt all pension income from the state income tax long overdue, state Representative John E. Stripp, R-135<sup>th</sup> District, today called on his legislative colleagues to support a pension protection measure that was approved Tuesday by the General Assembly's Appropriations Committee.

The pension protection measure was added as an amendment to a related bill (Senate Bill 1170) that was approved by the Appropriations Committee at its meeting Tuesday, said Representative Stripp, who serves on the committee and cosponsored the legislation.

"As a legislator who has supported pension protection bills offered by the House Republican Caucus in the past, I was delighted with the solid bi-partisan support Appropriations Committee members gave to this measure," Representative Stripp said. "Connecticut is one of only four states that offers no exemption on any kind of pension income. Many of our seniors are living on fixed incomes. Beyond an occasional cost of living increase, most retirees' incomes are unlikely to increase significantly."

Although Connecticut's income tax excludes most or all federally taxable Social Security and railroad retirement benefits, it does not exempt income from private pensions, federal civil service and military pensions and state and local government pensions. State pension taxes cost Connecticut seniors and veterans about \$185 million each year, Representative Stripp said.

"Most retirees use their pension and Social Security income to pay for food, clothing, and medical expenses, which increase almost every year as the cost of living goes up," Representative Stripp said. "Since pension income is taxable in Connecticut, our state's retirees have an even more difficult time making ends meet. After working all their lives, that shouldn't be the case. Our retirees should not have to sacrifice to pay for the necessities of life because the state taxes their pensions. Pension protection reform is long overdue. I intend to vote for this measure when it comes to the floor of the House. I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate to do so as well."